

Istook Praised for Efforts to Reduce Spending

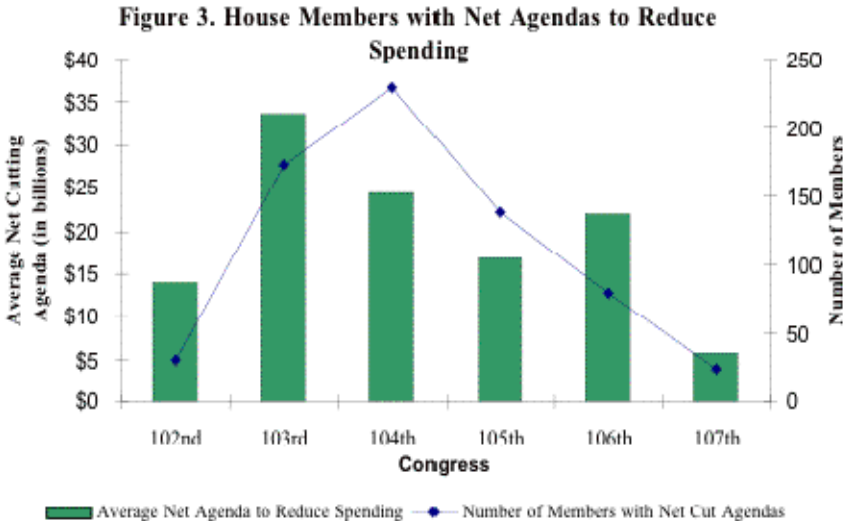
Washington, D.C. – The National Taxpayers Union reports that Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) is one of only 26 members of Congress with a legislative agenda to reduce federal spending. NTU each year tallies the financial impact of legislation introduced in Congress, and reports who the big spenders are, and who is committed to spending discipline. NTU reports that the number of lawmakers working to reduce spending is at an all-time low since they began their tracking system in 1991.

“It’s great to have this recognition, but I’m sorry that so few Congressmen want to reduce overall spending,” said Istook. “Common-sense tells us that our kids and grandkids will be saddled with debt unless we get serious about controlling spending and getting the deficit under control. Taxpayers need to know that the worst part is not the appropriations process; it’s the explosion of automatic spending programs, the so-called entitlements. This is another reason I keep pushing for the Balanced-Budget Amendment that we need to require discipline within the Congress.”

NTU’s BillTally is a cost accounting system that computes a net annual agenda for each Member of Congress and has done so since 1991. The results are based on each Member's individual sponsorship and cosponsorship of pending legislation. All cost estimates for bills are obtained from third-party sources or calculated from neutral data.

The NTU report released the following list of 26 U.S. House members with net agendas to reduce spending (no Senators made the list):

Congressman	Net Agenda	Congressman	Net Agenda
Chabot (R-OH)	(\$15,719,000,000)	Istook (R-OK)	(\$5,509,000,000)
Everett (R-AL)	(\$12,273,000,000)	Hunter (R-CA)	(\$4,481,000,000)
Crane (R-IL)	(\$11,325,000,000)	Pombo (R-CA)	(\$3,893,000,000)
Smith, N. (R-MI)	(\$10,471,000,000)	Ryun (R-KS)	(\$3,873,000,000)
Coble (R-NC)	(\$9,336,000,000)	Knollenberg (R-MI)	(\$3,724,000,000)
Pitts (R-PA)	(\$8,770,000,000)	Shadegg (R-AZ)	(\$3,140,000,000)
Rohrabcher (R-CA)	(\$8,594,000,000)	Hostettler (R-IN)	(\$2,178,000,000)
Stump (R-AZ)	(\$7,977,000,000)	Flake (R-AZ)	(\$1,856,000,000)
Thornberry (R-TX)	(\$7,294,000,000)	Akin (R-MO)	(\$1,723,000,000)
Brady, K. (R-TX)	(\$7,105,000,000)	Hansen (R-UT)	(\$1,644,000,000)
Cox (R-CA)	(\$6,921,000,000)	Toomey (R-PA)	(\$1,522,000,000)
Hoekstra (R-MI)	(\$6,036,000,000)	Aderholt (R-AL)	(\$1,238,000,000)
Bartlett (R-MD)	(\$5,558,000,000)	Wicker (R-MS)	(\$19,000,000)



To see the full press release and report, visit the NTU website at http://www.ntu.org/news_room/press_releases/P0310ntuf_pp_145.php3.

